

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Special Meeting
Council Retreat

March 1-3, 2001

Channel Lodge
La Conner, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Mosher, Deputy Mayor Marshall, Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Degginger, Lee, and Noble

ABSENT: None.

Thursday, March 1

The meeting was opened at 8:40 p.m. following an informal dinner. Council discussed the Myers-Briggs personality styles and how these profiles influence group dynamics. Council then moved to a discussion of Council rules and responsibilities. They discussed the desire for greater involvement with Bellevue Boards and Commissions, as well as the possibility of meeting annually with Board and Commission chairs. They also discussed the role Boards and Commissions play in the budget process.

Councilmembers said they would like to have further discussion of the scope of work for the upcoming Comprehensive Plan update. Council wants to ensure there is a balance of representatives from Boards/Commissions, businesses, and residents on the citizen advisory committees (CACs) that will be involved in the Comprehensive Plan update process. The current plan is to establish three CACs to address downtown, transportation, and environmental issues. Council will communicate clearly to the CACs their expectations on the work to be assigned to them. The CACs will submit their work and recommendations to the Planning Commission, which will assimilate all the CAC recommendations, review and develop Planning Commission recommendations, and submit their recommendations to the Council.

Council recognized the need to solicit input from Boards and Commissions prior to its discussion of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment scoping process. Some Councilmembers expressed interest in entertaining additional changes or new policies in the Comprehensive Plan Update beyond what is required by the Growth Management Act. They suggested looking at approaches that have been used in Bellevue and elsewhere.

Referring to a map prepared by staff, the Council discussed the achievement of their goal of greater geographical distribution of Board and Commission membership across the City. Deputy

Mayor Marshall requested that a similar map be prepared identifying Councilmember geographic distribution across the City.

The meeting recessed at 10:30 p.m.

Friday, March 2

At 8:40 a.m., Council resumed its discussion of the roles and responsibilities of Council and its relationships with the City Manager, the Leadership Team, staff, Boards, and Commissions. They discussed the heavy workload associated with assuming a stronger leadership role in the region and the need to prioritize Council's involvement in regional forums and issues.

Mayor Mosher declared a break at 9:55 a.m., and the meeting resumed at 10:10 a.m.

Todd Weber described the Appreciative Inquiry approach to creating more meaningful and exciting organizations. Appreciative Inquiry is strength-based rather than focused on solving problems. He said if we look for problems to solve, we will find them. On the other hand, if we look for strengths to build on, we will find strengths. Mr. Weber talked about looking at organizations as miracles to be appreciated rather than problems to be solved. He characterized the City's response to the recent earthquake as a miracle to be appreciated and encouraged the City to build on what currently works best.

Appreciative Inquiry involves appreciating and valuing the best in an organization in order to work toward innovating the best of what will be. Mr. Weber said this can happen in an organization when upper management is willing to allow staff autonomy. He recommended asking staff if they can perform a process or provide a service better, then stepping out of the way, assigning accountability and responsibility, and recognizing the outcomes. He described a program in Chicago that involves 13-17 year olds in identifying what they most appreciate about the city. The City is then building on these strengths, rather than approaching the issues from a problem/deficit perspective. Mr. Weber cautioned that such an approach should be implemented incrementally to avoid creating anxiety within an organization. He provided several examples of focusing on the positive and working to accomplish goals.

At 12:00 p.m., Council recessed for lunch. The meeting resumed at 1:10 p.m.

Council discussed 2000 accomplishments in preparation for a year-end report to the community, which included the following:

- Hiring City Manager
- West Lake Sammamish Annexation (and team approach utilized)
- Pipeline response – measurable outcomes
- Ability to take on and master new issues
- Comprehensive Plan coming to fruition
 - Downtown development/vitality /relationships
- Downtown Access

- Emergency Preparedness
- Y2K
- Compensation/Classification Study
- Core Values – recognition of staff – celebration
- Acceptance in regional forums
- Didn't raise taxes (4th year in a row)
- Reduced crime rate – Community-Based Policing working
- Waterfront acquisitions
- Greater recognition of performing arts and human services in budget
- Regional leadership in Cascade Water Alliance, Endangered Species Act, Transportation
- Making progress on Crossroads Park, Community Center South of I-90
- Greater Council involvement in community – WLS, Pipeline, Neighborhood Summit, transportation meetings
- Proactive work on native protection areas – (but some disagreement on how to proceed)
- Continuation of BROTS agreements
- Construction Code Advisory Committee
- Response to capital needs – holding facility
- Work of neighborhood liaisons – better recognition for volunteers
- Re-staffed Transportation Department.

Mrs. Marshall suggested including photos of Councilmembers and the Leadership Team with the publication.

Council then reviewed its draft Vision Statement for Bellevue, as noted below.

CITY COUNCIL VISION FOR BELLEVUE

Bellevue is one of the outstanding cities in the United States. It is a community of innovative citizens who work together to shape our future. Bellevue is:

- A City which is a **CENTER OF CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY** for a thriving Eastside.
- A city noted for its stewardship and enhancement of its **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**.
- A **“CITY IN A PARK”** with an exceptional system of parks, recreation facilities, trails and green spaces.
- A leader in developing a **TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM** which provides mobility within the community and the region.
- A community of caring people who value first class schools, high quality neighborhoods, and safe places where generations can live, work and play.

- A community that empowers individuals and families in need by providing **BASIC HUMAN SERVICES.**
- A city strengthened **by its CULTURAL DIVERSITY.**
- A city government dedicated to its Core Values of **EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE, STEWARDSHIP, COMMITMENT TO EMPLOYEES, INTEGRITY, AND INNOVATION.**

Staff agreed to request feedback from the Leadership Team which will be brought back to Council. The Vision Statement will then be finalized at a future Study Session.

Council moved to a discussion of 2000-2001 priorities and restructured/refined the list of priorities to include:

- Transportation
- Neighborhood assistance strategy
- Technology infrastructure
- Cultural infrastructure
- Communication
- Human infrastructure
- Regional Leadership roles and messages, and
- Economic vitality.

Council acknowledged that a number of the 2000-2001 priorities' work program items have already been accomplished or significant strides made towards completion, including:

- Local transportation vision
- Clarified Human Services strategy and assessed appropriateness of resources devoted to Human Services
- Continued partnership with ARCH / affordable housing
- Established and articulated Bellevue's regional identity
 - ⇒ Completed transition from Suburban Cities Association to independent status
 - ⇒ Defined proactive messages to be communicated regionally
- Considered developmental assets findings
- Resolved EMS funding package
- Involved citizens and businesses in Downtown Implementation.

These will be added to the list of 2000 Accomplishments.

Mrs. Marshall requested a Council Study Session be scheduled to discuss how Bellevue can become a wired city. She feels this is an important factor in attracting and retaining businesses in

Bellevue. Council also requested future discussion about the City's tax policies as part of an overall strategy to preserve economic vitality. Council would also like more information on juvenile arrest statistics and issues.

Mayor Mosher declared a break at 3:45 p.m., and the session resumed at 4:10 p.m.

Council reviewed past bold actions that have contributed to the community we have today and discussed audacious goals previously identified in 2000, including:

- Transportation Center, including downtown tunnel/multi-modal facility
- Bus or "people movers" technology – local circulator system
- Connecting Downtown with Meydenbauer Bay, and
- Performing Arts Center.

Interim Deputy City Manager Ed Oberg reviewed the City's history of bond issues and the current legal debt capacity. Council discussed possible options for financing for each of its audacious goals.

Council recessed at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 3

Council resumed discussions at 8:35 a.m.

City Manager Steve Sarkozy summarized key initiatives recently discussed by Council which will be added to the list of audacious goals:

- Evaluate public safety facility proposal.
- Investigate opportunities to acquire additional parks and open space.
- Explore further partnerships with the Bellevue School District to provide shared recreation and meeting facilities
- Request that staff review and discuss with cultural arts groups the fundraising possibilities for a performing arts center, as well as other possible private/public partnerships such as a sports arena and a high-tech center.

Council moved to a discussion of neighborhood issues. Mr. Sarkozy said he met with the City's neighborhood liaisons to discuss potential modifications and enhancements to current neighborhood programs. Council discussed ways to refocus the approach to neighborhood programs including options for the City's approach to code enforcement. Mr. Sarkozy outlined a possible new approach to a neighborhood investment strategy for Council consideration that included direct homeowner communications, creation and distribution of a packet describing the breadth of neighborhood services, transition to enhanced Code enforcement in interested neighborhoods, and a systems planning approach to service delivery including open space acquisition, transportation improvements, redevelopment plans, etc.

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Mr. Sarkozy discussed the need to create better cohesion between Council policy and staff's activities. Council was generally supportive of a pilot program using this approach.

Mayor Mosher declared the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. and thanked everyone for participating.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

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